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ABSTRACT

This book explores issues typified by a series of hateful speech events at Kean College (New Jersey) and on other U.S. campuses in the early 1990s, by examining the dichotomies that exist between the First and the Fourteenth Amendments and between civil liberties and civil rights, and by contrasting the values of free speech and academic freedom in the university to the failure to provide equal protection to students. An introductory chapter reviews the precipitating events at Kean College, when speakers from outside the college (Leonard Jeffries, Khalid Abdul Muhammad, and Louis Farrakhan) polarized the campus. African Americans felt their cultural event had been treated with disrespect; Jewish students, faculty, and staff were upset that a speaker known for anti-Semitic attitudes was allowed to speak without confronting those whom he defamed; Hispanics saw a plot to get rid of the Hispanic president. Succeeding chapters cover changing U.S. demographics and attitudes; the affirmative action debate; identity politics, multiculturalism, and political correctness; the campus climate; court cases involving regulation of speech on campus; and the need for college leadership to improve intergroup relations as a means of dealing with hate speech. (Chapters contain endnotes and approximately 240 references.)

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